UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1820
30 January 1995

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council extends UNIFIL mandate for six months until 31 July 1995.

+ UNICEF announces death of former Executive Director James P. Grant, on Saturday; Secretary-General expresses great distress and personal grief at death of Mr. Grant.

+ Mozambique calls for continued international support during current period of country's national reconstruction and development.

+ Secretary-General expresses grave concern at current tension between Ecuador and Peru; is following developments with close attention.

+ Both sides in dispute in Tajikistan inform Secretary-General of extension of agreement on temporary ceasefire.

+ Preparatory Committee for World Summit for Social Development approves provisional agenda and organization of work for Summit, to be held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March.

+ Secretary-General to officially launch Organization's fiftieth anniversary commemoration at ceremony at Headquarters on 1 February.

* * *

The Security Council today extended the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) for a period of six months until 31 July 1995. It took that action by unanimously adopting resolution 974 (1995). By the resolution, the Council also reiterated its strong support for Lebanon's territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence within its internationally recognized borders. It called on all parties concerned to cooperate fully with the Force for the full implementation of its mandate.

Earlier, in a report to the Council, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali had recommended the extension of UNIFIL's mandate. In his report, the Secretary-General also appealed to Member States to pay up their

(more)

For information media—not an official record

assessments promptly to help solve the shortfall in UNIFIL funding. The Force is owed some $203.5 million in assessments, representing money owed to States contributing troops to it.

UNIFIL was set up in March 1978 with the mandate of confirming the withdrawal of Israeli forces from southern Lebanon, restoring international peace and security and assisting the Government of Lebanon in ensuring the return of its effective authority in the area.

* * *

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) announced on Saturday, 28 January, the death of its former Executive Director, James P. Grant. He was 72 years old. Mr. Grant assumed office as the third Executive Director of UNICEF in January 1980. He resigned on 23 January this year because of his ill health.

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has expressed great distress and personal grief at the death of Mr. Grant. In a statement issued on his behalf, a UN Spokesman said the Secretary-General extended his heartfelt condolences to Mr. Grant's widow and to the other members of his family.

During his 15-year tenure as head of UNICEF, Mr. Grant was acclaimed for his tireless advocacy and his unflagging commitment, vision and dedication to improving the lives of the world's least advantaged -- the children of the developing world. Under his leadership, UNICEF confronted and decried what Mr. Grant called "the silent emergency", the daily tragedy of millions of children caught in the relentless downward spiral of poverty, population and environmental degradation. During Mr,. Grant's term, UNICEF also responded to the "loud" emergencies, and worked to save the lives of women and children caught in disasters such as earthquakes, famine and war.

* * *

The Foreign Minister of Mozambique has called for continued international support for his country during the current period of national reconstruction and development. Addressing the Security Council on Friday, Leonardo Santos Simaro said his country would continue to need international assistance in addressing vital issues, despite the successful completion of the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ), whose complete withdrawal is scheduled for 31 January.

Those issues, he said included the reintegration into civilian society of demobilized soldiers, returnees and displaced persons, as well as in poverty eradication. Citing the holding of Mozambique's first democratic multiparty elections in October 1994 under United Nations auspices, the Foreign Minister commended the international community, the Secretary-General, the members of the Council and others for their contributions to the success of his country's peace process which began with the signing of the General Peace Agreement in Rome on 4 October 1992.

(more)

Other speakers at the meeting applauded the success of the operation in Mozambique and stressed the need for the international community to provide continued support in order to uphold and consolidate the political gains of the past two years. They also called for a thorough review and analysis of the Mozambique operation in order to extract lessons which would be valuable for the conduct of similar operations in the future.

* * *

The Secretary-General has expressed his grave concern at the current tension between Ecuador and Peru. In a statement issued on Saturday, a UN Spokesman said the Secretary-General was following developments with close attention and was in touch with the Permanent Representatives of the two countries in New York. He applauded the prompt efforts of the four countries which are guarantors of the 1942 Protocol between Ecuador and Peru - Argentina, Brazil, Chile and the United States - and those of the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States. The spokesman said Mr. Boutros-Ghali stood ready to provide any support which may be appropriate to the two countries and to those helping them to resolve this long-standing problem.

Meanwhile, both Ecuador and Peru have accused each other of aggression. In a letter to the President of the Security Council, Ecuador said it has been urging Peru, through diplomatic channels, to halt its acts of provocation. However, the letter said, Peru has launched military operations against Ecuadorian army positions located in Ecuadorian territory. And Peru, in its letter to the Council said it has been the victim of armed aggression by Ecuadorian troops who committed an incursion into Peruvian territory. The Peruvian letter said that despite its official statements to resolve the matter through dialogue, a Peruvian guardpost was bombed by a helicopter of the Ecuadorian Armed Forces on Thursday.

* * *

Both sides in the dispute in Tajikistan have informed the Secretary-General that they are extending the agreement on a temporary ceasefire, according to a UN spokesman. President E. Rakhmonov of the Republic of Tajikistan, in his letter of 25 January to the Secretary-General, said his Government had decided to extend unconditionally the Agreement on a Temporary Cease-fire and the Cessation of Other Hostile Acts inside the Country and on the Tajik-Afghan border of 17 September 1994. He said the Agreement was of crucial importance for the restoration of peace and tranquillity in the country. He also stressed that his Government is prepared to do everything possible to continue the inter-Tajik negotiations.

Meanwhile, A. Turajonzodah, head of the Tajik opposition delegation and First Deputy Chairman of the Islamic Revival Movement of Tajikistan, has also sent a letter to the Secretary-General on 27 January. He emphasized the need to resolve the conflict through political means on the negotiating table. In this regard, on behalf of the leadership of the opposition, he announced the decision to extend the Agreement on 17 September 1994 for one month until 6

March 1995, in connection with the holy month of Ramadan. He pointed out that the extension of the Agreement would provide a chance to continue the inter-Tajik dialogue and to reach substantive progress in resolving fundamental political problems on the agenda of the inter-Tajik talks. In view of the constructive and stabilizing role which the United Nations Mission of Observers plays in Tajikistan, he requested the Secretary-General to consider the possibility of recommending to the Security Council the extension of its mandate.

* * *

The Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development has approved the provisional agenda and organization of work for the Summit, to be held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March. Based on the provisional programme of work, representatives of governments and organizations would meet from 6 to 10 March to exchange views, with 11 to 12 March dedicated to the Summit itself, with the participation of Heads of State or Government. An evening meeting would be held on 12 March for the adoption of the Summit's declaration and programme of action to guide national and international efforts towards social progress. A main committee would be established to complete the drafting of the documents to be adopted.

During the exchange of views, daily themes would focus on an enabling environment for social development; the eradication of poverty; productive employment and the reduction of unemployment; and social integration, as well as implementation and follow-up. On International Women's Day, 8 March, statements would focus on enhancing the participation of women in social progress and development.

The Committee recommended that Summit statements be limited to seven minutes. It also called upon all States, public and private organizations and individuals to contribute to the trust fund established to facilitate the fullest participation of the least developed countries in the Summit .

The Committee also agreed that the number of Vice-Presidents to be elected to the Summit would be 27 - seven from African States; six from Asian States; five from Latin American and Caribbean States; three from Eastern European States; and six from Western European and Other States.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali will officially launch the Organization's fiftieth anniversary commemoration at a ceremony at Headquarters on 1 February. To mark the beginning of the world-wide programme of events, the Secretary-General will inaugurate a year-long exhibit of the original Charter document in the General Assembly Lobby, .

Ambassador Madeleine K. Albright of the United States and Trudy H. Peterson, Acting Archivist of the United States National Archives, will present the original Charter to the Secretary-General. New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, Ambassador Legwaila Joseph Legwaila of Botswana who will

(more)

serve as President of the Security Council for February, and Ambassador Richard Butler of Australia, Chairman of the Fiftieth Anniversary Preparatory Committee, are expected to be present. The Secretary-General and five of the first staff members of the United Nations will then present copies of the Charter to six children from different continents.

* *** *